

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2796

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 0319

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EEO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PQ, PN

SUBJ: HIGHLIGHTS OF 395TH PRC MEETING, JANUARY 15

1. AMBASSADOR OPENED MEETING WITH BRIEF REVIEW OF AGENDA AND PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF TREATY NEGOTIATORS ON CONTADORA ISLAND. HE RECOUNTED CONVERSATION WITH FONMIN TACK IN WHICH LATTER ACKNOWLEDGED EXISTENCE OF RUMORS ABOUT HIS RESIGNATION BUT ATTRIBUTED THESE TO PERSONS ATTEMPTING TO WEAKEN HIS POSITION. AMBASSADOR REPORTED TACK'S AFFIRMATION HE INTENDED REMAIN IN POST UNTIL TREATY NEGOTIATED. AMBASSADOR ALSO BRIEFED GOVENOR AND CINC ABOUT RELEVANT DISCUSSIONS DURING RECENT CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON. CINC EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST IN WASHINGTON VIEWS ON FUTURE OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO LA.

2. PRC PRINCIPALS CONSIDERED DRAFT PUBLIC INFORMATION CONTINGENCY PLAN AND APPROVED IT FORMALLY.

3. GOVENOR DISTRIBUTED FINAL VERSION OF CANAL TOLL STUDY UNDERTAKEN BY CONSULTANT ELY BRANDES OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATED. HE ALSO DISTRIBUTED FRAFT REPORT CONTAINING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REORGANIZATION OF
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PAN CANAL COMPANY/CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT AFTER TREATY.

SUBJECT REPORT WAS CARRIED OUT BY HAROLD SEIDMAN, FOREMOST EXPERT ON GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURES. GOVENOR SUGGESTED AMBASSADOR PROVIDE COPY OF DEPUTY NEGOTIATOR BELL.

4. GOVENOR RAISED RECURRING PROBLEM OF DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED BY ZONIAN DUAL NATIONALS WHEN ATTEMPTING TO CROSS COSTA RICAN FRONTIER WITHOUT PANAMANIAN DOCUMENTATION. AMBASSADOR REQUESTED SOME SPECIFIC CASE HISTORIES WHICH HE CAN USE WHEN FOLLOWING UP THIS MATTER WITH PRESIDENT LAKAS. AMBASSADOR RECALLED THAT PREVIOUS REPRESENTATIONS HAVE DEALT MAINLY WITH SIMILAR PROBLEM AT TOCUMEN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

5. CINC REQUESTED PRC PRINCIPALS TO REVIEW SCENARIO FOR BLUE STAR VI COMMAND POST EXERCISE WITH A VIEW TO ITS SENSITIVITY SHOULD DETAILS OF PLAY BE REVEALED AT THIS PARTICULARLY DELICATE PHASE OF TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. GOVENOR SUGGESTED FEWER MAJOR EVENTS IN SCENARIO AND POSSIBILITY OF SIMULATING LARGER MEASURE OF WASHINGTON-PRC INTERACTION DURING EXERCISE. AMBASSADOR AGREED TO READ DOCUMENT AND CONVEY HIS OPINION.

6. CINC'S STAFF BRIEFED PRC ON JOINT US-GOP SURVEY OF ILLEGAL SQUATTERS IN ZONE. CINC EXPRESSED OPINION THAT EMBASSY TELEGRAM DESCRIBING OPERATION (PANAMA 0162) DID NOT PROVIDE COMPLETE STORY AND BACKGROUND FOR SURVEY. DECISION WAS TAKEN THAT SOUTHCOM WOULD PREPARE SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT.
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